

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 10, 2003. Claims 1-38 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, 19, and 28 are in independent form. New Claim 38 has been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-10, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, and 27-37 have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,330,068 to Matsuyama in view of U.S. Patent 6,324,521 to Shiota et al.; Claims 6, 15, and 24, as being obvious from Matsuyama in view of Shiota et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,351,317 to Sasaki et al.; and Claims 9, 18, 27, and 29-37, as being obvious from Sasaki et al.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus, for communicating via the Internet with an external apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes acquisition means, page generation means, file generation means, and print request means. The acquisition means acquires print setting information from the external apparatus, and stores the print setting information in a memory. The page generation means generates a print request page without connecting to the external apparatus based on the acquired print setting information and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited. The file generation means generates a print request file according to values input on the print request page. The print request means establishes

communication with the external apparatus to send the generated print request file. The print request page is generated before the communication with the external apparatus is established by the print request means.

One notable feature of Claim 1 is that a print request page is generated without connecting to an external apparatus based on stored print setting information acquired from the external apparatus and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited, and, then, communication is established with the external apparatus to send a print request file generated based on values input on the print request page.

Matsuyama discusses generating a print order via the internet. Fig. 1, cited in the Office Action, is a block diagram showing the system structure of a print control apparatus. A client computer 101 has document editing applications which constitute image editing means for editing images and documents. Image server 102 stores image data having a plurality of resolutions, one frame of the image data having an image format managed by a plurality of divided tiles. The image data or image tile data in the image film having a designated resolution is transmitted via the network to the client computer 101 and to print servers 104-106. Print controller 103 receives from the client computer 101 a print script described with page descriptive language and a print order, selects a print server which processes the print order, and transmits the print script and print order to the selected print server. Reference numerals 104, 105, and 106 each represent a print server as an example of an output control apparatus. The print server processes the print script, in response to a print order from the print controller 103. The client computer 101, image

server 102, print controller 103, and print servers 104-106 are interconnected by a network.

Therefore, Matsuyama discusses that a print order file received from a client computer 101 is transferred to a print server which is selected by a print controller 103.

Applicants submit, however, that nothing in Matsuyama would teach or suggest that a print request page is generated without connecting to an external apparatus based on stored print setting information acquired from the external apparatus and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited, and, then, communication is established with the external apparatus to send a print request file generated based on values input on the print request page, as recited in Claim 1.

Shiota et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a network photograph service system. A service center receiving an order of a printing service and a minilab or a special laboratory spread across a plurality of places communicate through a network. The center server in the service center selects and assigns the laboratory for printing the ordered picture in response to an order information transferred from a customer via the network so that the printing processing can be carried out by the laboratory specified by the customer instead of the center server.

Shiota et al. merely discusses that a service center receives a print order from a user to print by a selected output laboratory, and nothing has been found in Shiota et al. which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above. In particular, nothing has been found in Shiota et al. that would teach or suggest that a print request page is generated without connecting to an external apparatus based on stored print

setting information acquired from the external apparatus and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited, and, then, communication is established with the external apparatus to send a print request file generated based on values input on the print request page, as recited in Claim 1.

Sasaki et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a printing system using a communication network. Apparently, in Sasaki et al., a host computer sends print data to a printer, receives a preview image from the printer, and then displays the preview image. In response to an area designation by a user, the host computer acquires another preview image for the designated area having a different resolution from that of the printer.

Sasaki et al. merely discusses that a printer generates a preview image of a document to display on a client computer, and nothing has been found in Sasaki et al. which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above. In particular, nothing has been found in Sasaki et al. that would teach or suggest that a print request page is generated without connecting to an external apparatus based on stored print setting information acquired from the external apparatus and a preview image of print data that is currently being edited, and, then, communication is established with the external apparatus to send a print request file generated based on values input on the print request page, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, either separately or in combination, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent Claims 10, 19, and 28 are method, computer-readable memory medium, and computer program product claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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